

on additional health issues including breast cancer, smoking, and NIH funding. For many years, he worked out of the office of our colleague HENRY WAXMAN, who spoke eloquently last week at Elmer's funeral.

Elmer also had a desk in Steve Solarz's office where he worked with Steve on human rights and Jewish issues. I'm told that he helped Representative Solarz pass the famous yarmulke bill—which allowed Jewish servicemen to wear religious head coverings while on duty—by recounting to Members and staff the fact that Elmer himself wore his yarmulke while parachuting behind enemy lines in World War II.

Together with his second wife, Shoshana Riemer, herself an activist, Elmer was very involved in a host of civic and community affairs. He was legendary for his continuous vigil in front of the Soviet Embassy during the dark days of oppression of Soviet Jews. He and Shoshana were charter sponsors of the Holocaust Museum.

In a New York Times profile about Elmer written in 1986, Elmer said, "During my lifetime, if I can reduce suffering in this world a little bit, I will be more than rewarded for all my efforts." Sadly, Elmer's life has come to an end. But he did indeed succeed in helping many, many people. And he enriched and inspired those he left behind. The poet Thomas Campbell wrote, "To live in the hearts we leave is not to die." By this measure, Elmer will live on in all who knew and loved him.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2099) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to address the section of H.R. 2099, the fiscal year 1996 VA-HUD appropriations bill, that will prevent the Federal Emergency Management Agency [FEMA] from spending any further taxpayer dollars for work on flood insurance rate maps [FIRM] for the city of Stockton and San Joaquin County, CA. I have worked with this appropriations subcommittee to see that language is included in this bill that would ensure that these inaccurate and deficient maps are not prematurely imposed on the Stockton metropolitan area. This Congress must ensure that FEMA is a partner with the city and county in providing accurate and complete information on the risk of flooding and to assist in coordinating the completion of improvements to the existing levee system. Such a coordinated effort will more rapidly restore an adequate level of flood protection and enhance, rather than threaten, the regional, and State's economy.

Unlike most FEMA floodplain maps for urbanized areas, the proposed FIRM's for Stockton do not indicate flood depths. Such information is critical to determine insurance premium rates and building code requirements. Because FEMA did not provide this information during its most recent flood insurance study, the city and county can only estimate flood depths, thereby assuming liability for inaccurate estimates, in addition to its individual property owners incurring the costs of determining the appropriate flood depths. In order to minimize this cost to property owners, the city and county have stepped forward to fully finance the necessary flood depth study. This necessary study is expected to be completed in 2 years. The legislation we are adopting today will suspend FEMA's maps and ensuing process, at least for 1 year, while the study is conducted.

FEMA's draft maps also contain significant errors. Processing has already been delayed by FEMA because of omissions and inclusions that were not part of the initial draft. The city and county have already hired an engineering firm to review the maps, and numerous other errors have been found. Despite the fact that the city and county are moving rapidly to review the proposed FIRM's, the 90-day appeal period allowed by FEMA is insufficient time considering the vast area that has been remapped. My provision contained in the appropriations bill is intended to prevent the appeal period from expiring while more accurate data is collected and eventually provided to FEMA.

Mr. Speaker, FEMA has praised the city and county for the initiative they have exercised to respond to these maps and the potential for future flooding. Since being notified last November, that nearly the entire metropolitan area was being redesignated as a floodplain, the local governments have already established a joint powers authority [JPA], retained engineering and public finance consultants, and appropriated more than \$2 billion. The city and county JPA plans to construct the needed flood protection improvements without Federal financial assistance in order to expedite completion of the project. The JPA has already established a fast-track schedule that begins constructions in May 1996 and expects completion before the end of 1998. We must now ensure that FEMA's administrative actions assist rather than impede this effort.

JUDGE LLOYD TATUM, A GREAT AMERICAN

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 1, 1995

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, August 5, 1995, Judge Lloyd Tatum of Henderson, TN, will celebrate his birthday, matching the Biblical age of three score and ten.

Judge Tatum is a highly respected west Tennessee lawyer, known throughout Tennessee legal circles for having served many years as a member of the Tennessee Criminal Court of Appeals. Upon his retirement from the active bench several years ago, he resumed private practice in Henderson with his son, Lloyd Rogers Tatum, while continuing to serve as a reserve judge.

In addition to being the husband of my beloved deceased sister, Inadene, Judge Tatum is a mentor of mine. He is a brother-in-law who is as close to me as a brother. He inspired me to become a lawyer, to engage in politics and to muster the self-confidence to stand for Congress.

We confer frequently about issues of the day, as well as our latest golf scores—such as they are—and I value his advice.

Saturday, his four children and their spouses, many grandchildren, other family and scores of friends are gathering to wish Lloyd a joyous birthday.

I hope that through his life, I can inspire just a fraction of the great number of people who have been inspired and encouraged by Lloyd Tatum.

I wish for him many more productive years and thank him for all he means to me, my family, and hundreds of friends and admirers. Happy birthday, Lloyd.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TERRY JAMES MCCOY

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 1, 1995

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I offer my congratulations to Terry James McCoy of Franklin, NC, who has been named a national winner in the 1995 Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting contest.

The program was started 48 years ago and since 1958 has been sponsored each year by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary.

Students competing in the contest write and record a 3-to-5-minute essay on a patriotic theme. This year more than 126,000 secondary school students nationwide participated in the contest competing for the 54 national scholarships.

McCoy, a recent graduate of Franklin High School, was named the North Carolina State winner for his script, "My Vision for America," and was awarded the \$2,000 Jesse A. Lewis Memorial Scholarship Award.

I congratulate Terry on an outstanding accomplishment and ask that his script be placed in the RECORD.

MY VISION FOR AMERICA

(By Terry James McCoy)

The United States of America was, and is, an experiment. In its brief two hundred and eighteen years as an independent nation, America has stood the test of destruction many times. Every time this nation is engaged in a battle, it is tested. Every time America experiences a lapse in its economy, it is tested. When American citizens burn the symbol of this great land, it is tested.

The Civil War was possibly this nation's greatest trial. Descension among citizens has never been this high. As states began to secede, hatred towards one another began to grow. Many were declaring this, "the end of democracy, and this nation." How fortunate, that from the fields of Illinois there came a tall, powerful man. This man has vision for America. He could see past the hatred and the violence. He saw America as it should have been. Abraham Lincoln led a nation out of its greatest test and left it far better than he found it.